

[Reports]

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

OF NORTH CAROLINA

Federal Writers' Project

Chapel Hill, N. C.

October 12, 1938

Mr. Henry G. Alsberg

Federal Writers' Project

8th and G Streets, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

Oct 13, 1938

Dear Mr. Alsberg:

I am sending you herewith all the stories we have collected to date except for the following which have been sent under separate cover for possible use in a manual.

The Dunnes John Rogers, Produce Trucker

The Haithcocks A Day on Factory Hill

Josephine Wallace The Hollifields

Library of Congress

Jones I. Freeze Description of a Mill Village, Asheville

I have not been able to give as much time as I should like to reading this material and considering it for use in a manual. I think that others who are fresh to the material may be able to make some good suggestions, and I would appreciate your reading the stories and having them read with this purpose in mind.

I am seriously handicapped by the lack of the services of a secretary on the Project, and am having to use for this work my secretary and typist on the staff of the Press. I hope I will have a regular Project secretary within the next week or two.

Please let me have criticisms and suggestions. I am specially anxious for Botkin and the editor of your racial-ethics series to read the stories, and I will appreciate it if they will turn loose with all their critical forces. If the work is not thoroughly discussed and criticized at this stage, it will certainly not be as good as it ought to be.

I believe we can get good narrative case histories of persons on relief from State Departments of Public Welfare. I have already secured materials from Tennessee, and think it is possible to get a volume of material illustrative of the relief problems throughout the South. As quickly as possible I plan to consult heads of State Departments in other Southern states.

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Mr. Alsberg

October 12, 1938

I have consulted also the Regional Director of the Farm Security Administration and he is going to see if he can not get from some of the members of his staff narratives that may be used in the volume or volumes on tenants and farm owners.

Library of Congress

So far we have done very little outside of mill villages. I hope soon to be able to get into the other fields.

Sincerely yours, W.T. Couch

William T. Couch

Regional Director

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encl.

August 5, 1938

Mr. Henry G. Alsberg

Federal Writers' Project

8th and G Streets

Washington, D. C.

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Dear Mr. Alsberg:

I am sending you herewith 9 life histories of mill village families. These samples indicate to some extent the kind of material I think ought to be collected on people in mill villages.

It is not going to be desirable to establish a pattern and follow it closely. The reason for this is that the villages are different, and the families in them are different. I am drawing up general instructions for the personnel that will collect this material but I am certain no

Library of Congress

schedules can cover everything that should be covered, and that elaborate schedules would be a hindrance rather than a help in doing the job. A very good statement of the problem involved in this work is given in the preface to Thomas Minehan's Boy and Girl Tramps in America. We shall not want to follow Minehan's method of dealing with his subject matter, but his conception of his task and of the problems involved in dealing with it seems to me sounder than any other statement I have seen on this subject.

I would be glad to have any comments or criticisms on the enclosed material from yourself or members of your staff. Within the next two or three weeks I hope to get other types of stories. I shall try to get this same kind of subject matter related from the point of view of a section of a mill village, or a street, or a particular house which has had a succession of families live in it. The approach to the subject matter can be varied almost indefinitely.

One of the important things we have not yet done and which needs very much to be done is the securing of descriptions of the mill villages themselves. Of course, it is generally known that villages are different, but how different and in precisely what respects is almost completely unknown. [??]

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Mr. Henry G. Alsberg

August 5, 1938

I have sent copies of four of the mill village stories to Mr. Foreman and Mr. Goldschmidt.

I am much worried over the delay in the appointment because, of course, I am not able to make any real progress with the work until this matter is definitely clarified.

Sincerely yours, W.T. Couch

William T. Couch

Library of Congress

Assistant State Director

Federal Writers' Project

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NORTH CAROLINA WRITERS' PROJECT

Surplus Project Records

Here included:

(1) A. 5. Life Histories - [?] 30 manuscripts 1 Balfour and The Deever Taylors 1 copy 12 pp 2 Estelle Berry 2 copies 4 3 Jim McDowell (Negro) ("Blue Di'monds!") 2 copies 11 4 The Belks 1 copy 16 5 Craftsman Born 1 copy 7 6 James Peak 2 copies 10 7 Henrietta Pendleton 2 copies 4 8 Robert William Croasdell (Publicity Man) 1 copy 17 9 "Roxie Owens" 2 copies 10 10 Margie Rushing 2 copies 8 11 Cora Sigaon 1 copy 5 12 Geneva Street 2 copies 5 13 Cordie-Underwood 2 copies 8 14 Uncle Ulysses: Relief Client 2 copies 14 15 Essie Watts 2 copies 4 16 [Edgar?] Wynce 2 copies 6 17 The Life Story of George Horton, Colored 2 copies 6 18 Betty Lowe 2 copies 6 19 Joe Matheson 1 copy 6 20 Essie Meadows 1 copy 4 C9 - 1/22/41 - N.C 2 21 Mary Elizabeth Moore (Colored) 2 copies 3 22 Dolph Parsons 2 copies 7 23 Alexander J. Paradis 2 copies 4 [??] [??] 2 copies 10 [??? 5 24 Cornfield Scotch-Irish 1 copy 16 25 Counselor-At-Law 1 copy 20 26 The Clubhouse 2 copies 13 [Edgar Wynce 1 copy 7 27 Wadsworth Wilson 2 copies 9 [Josephine Wallace 1 copy 6

Surplus Project Records

Here Included:

(2) A. Life Histories - 20 manuscripts

Library of Congress

Stella Dean: Waitress 1

Sarah Norman: Spinster 2 - 1

The Schmidts 3 - 2

Allen Teavis (Farmer) 2 - 1

Up Hominy Creek 2 - 1

Mossie Williams (Glove Maker) 2 - 1

John Polk Wallace (Farmer) 2 - 1

Gus Constantin Geraris 1

Alfred and Clara Stamey (White) 2 - 1

Schoolmaster and Explorer 1

Mrs. Jim Shelton 1

Satisfied with Life 2 - 1

Ole An' Broke 2 - 1

Old Josh Dover 1

A Day With The Boone District Nurse 1

Perennial Contestant 1

The Rosses 2 - 1

Library of Congress

Reverend Thurman P. Bower 1

Shouting For Heaven 1

Josephine Wallace 1 [12 21 41 - ??? ?]

Surplus Project Records

Here Included:

(2) A. 5. Life Histories - [?] 25 Manuscripts

A Negro in Business -14 pp

The Marshalls - 12 pp - 2 copies

Mary Cox 11 pp

Neurotic - 8 pp

John Leard: Ploughman - 13 pp - 2 copies

Like You Hear On The Radio - 8 pp- 2 copies

Life in A Small Mountain town - 18 pp

Edna Lutz - 4 pp The McMurrays - 1 p (incomplete)

The Mathis Family - 10 pp

Mr. and Mrs. Pace - 5 pp The Hollifields A Day On Factory Hill Description of Mill Village

H. Perry Davis - 21 pp

Library of Congress

Dootor Gray - 11 pp - 2 copies

James J. Dunlap: Ex-Industrialist - 19 pp

Early and Lillie Holbrook - 30 pp

"Every Penny [?] counts " - 8 pp 2 copies

Ex-Soldier - 9 pp

Fisherman's Paradise - 12 pp - 2 copies [C9 - N.C. Box 1?]

2

A Good Time in the Army - 11 pp The Haithcocks

He Never Wanted Land Till Now - 11 pp

Her Ungodly Grandson - 12 pp

An Irascible Negro - 15 pp - 2 copies

I Used To Be A Bad Nigger - 8 pp

If I Couldn't Talk I'd Bust - 9 pp

The Inventor - 7 pp

Janitor and Odd Job Man - 5 pp

Surplus Project Records

Here included:

(4) A. [3?]. Life Histories - [?] 24 manuscripts

Library of Congress

"All Our folks was Farmers" - 9 pp.

Barning Tobacco - 7 pp. - 2 copies

"The Story Of Sudie Holton" - 4 pp. - 2 copies

John Sam Johnson (White Farmer) - 4 pp. - 2 copies

Cecil Kanipe (Textile Worker) - 5 pp. - 2 copies

Glenn Kanipe (Textile Worker) - 9 pp. - 2 copies

Mrs. Laurence Long (Farm Widow) - 3 pp - 2 copies

Mrs. Georgia Lunsford - 22 pp. - 2 copies

Mrs. Mary Grover - 11 pp. -

Molly Mauney - 7 pp. - 2 copies

Jake Mack (Mountain Sharecroppers) - 11 pp - 2 copies

Mountain Farming At Its Best - 9 pp. 2 copies

Winifred Morton (Postmistress) - 12 pp. - 2 copies

Robert H. Delvechio (orphans Two) - 11 pp.

Mrs. Bessie Parish - 6 - 2 copies

Joe Penniger - 4 - 2 copies

T. H. Phillips - 5 pp. - 2 copies

Library of Congress

Mrs. T. C. Ingle (Prayers That Worked) - 7 pp

Public School Teachers - 12 pp

A Small Merchant - 11 pp - 2 copies [C9-N.C. Poit 1-?]

2

Mary Jane Sherrill - 5 pp - 2 copies Walter Smith 5 pp. Enoch Ball

Shave Them Week Days, Save Them Sundays - 31 pp. 2 copies

Walter Smith - 5 pp. - 2 copies

W. J. Thompson - 10 pp.

(5) A. 5. Life Histories - [?] 31 manuscripts

Joe Matheson - 6

Essie Meadows - 4

Ruth Meadows - 4 - 2 copies

Laughing at Poverty - 14

Lizzie Linberger - 10 - 2 copies

J. R. Glenn - 6

Henry Houston - 5 - 2 copies

Dewitt Hines - 8 - 2 copies

Jack Gallup: Meat Clerk - 6

Library of Congress

Gone to Seed - 6 - 2 copies

Judge Sidney Saylor - 8

Frank Thomas Arthur - 6 - 2 copies

F. L. Alley - 6 - 2 copies

Mrs. Daisy Barringer - 4 - 2 copies

George and Cora Brauscom - 11 - 2 copies

W. A. Boyter - 4 - 2 copies

William A. Cooper -7

Harriet Crow - 7 - 2 copies

Alma Covell - 8 - 2 copies

C. M. Deal - 11 - 2 copies

A. F. Duncan - 4 - 2 copies

Blanch Gibson - 5 - 2 copies C9 - 1/22/41 - N.C. [?]

2

Begging Reduced to a System - 11 - 2 copies

Jesse W. Bowser - 5 - 2 copies

"Mary Jane Brown" - 8 - 2 copies

Mrs. Nannie Carson - 17 - 2 copies

Library of Congress

Fannie Colbert - 6 - 2 copies

Clara Edwards - 9 - 2 copies

Amos Farrell - 5 - 2 copies

The Farlows - 10 Crazy Andy

Lillie Craig - 4 - 2 copies

[?] [?????] [??]

[?] [?]

[?] [?] N. C. Live Histories Greeks VF Moved Bob Returned Apr. 7 [See if Life histories in envelope Should precede those in folders in arrangement?]

LIFE HISTORIES OF MILL WORKERS AND TENANT FARMERS

The [?]

The [?]

Mary Smith

The [?]

Ida Allen

The Wilkins Family

The Jackson Family

Description of Mill Village, West Durham

Library of Congress

Josephine Wallace

Miss Lora Willis

Belle and Lettie Walker

Elvira [?]

[?] I Freeze

The Fletchers

Alice Candle

Jamie Soleman

Wilis Robertson

Catherine and Will James

Hubert Smith

Ed and Mary Jackson

John Rogers, Produce Trucker

Four Families On [?] ST.

East Durham Mill Village

2

Nannie Ruth Parks A Day On Factory Hill

Lucille Hicks

Library of Congress

Jennie

Ima Buckner

The Hollifields

Description of Mill Village, Asheville

Sarah Wall

Elsie Wall

Stella Wall

Bill Branch

Description of Mill Village, Wake Forest

John Pierce

Mary Allen

Dave Stephene, Colored Tenant

John and Sarah Autrey These have been sent separately for possible use in Manual.